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January 17, 2002

Judge Kolar Kottely  
c/o Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Judge Kottely,

The settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case was a positive occurrence for the United States.

Presently our economy is enduring some harsh economic conditions. The markets are falling, many businesses have had to close down, and we've endured thousands of layoffs. The technology industry in particular, which helped fuel much of the financial gains of the 1990's, is suffering through its own severe downturn.

Although we are experiencing an economic slump, many believe that reviving the technology sector would be good for the nation. The antitrust case was stifling Microsoft with hostile attacks and legal maneuvers. Settling the case was right for the economy and the well being of our nation. It's my understanding that Microsoft agrees to grant computer makers new rights to configure Windows, and will disclose different parts of their Windows operating system. This is a fair accord and all parties involved in the case will benefit. I support the settlement completely.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Barbara M. Vakulskas*

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